



*Many Voices Working for the Community*

## Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board

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### NEWS RELEASE

**September 25, 2007**

**For Immediate Release**

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### Survey Results Reveal Cleanup Concerns

The Department of Energy is spending hundreds of millions of dollars in Oak Ridge each year cleaning up environmental contamination left from decades of nuclear enrichment and other activities.

So what concerns people most about that cleanup?

The answers lie in an annual survey conducted by the Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board called the Stakeholder Survey. The board has distributed the survey since 1998 in an effort to get input from the public on what cleanup issues are most important to them.

The survey is prepared each year by the board's Public Outreach committee and mailed to about 600 people on the board's *Advocate* newsletter mailing list. Additional copies are distributed at the Secret City Festival, the Oak Ridge and Kingston public libraries, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce. Notices about the survey's availability on the Site Specific Advisory Board's web site are posted in Anderson County Visions magazine and other local papers, and on the three main DOE contractor web sites.

The results this year (which were collected in July and August) showed great similarity to those from last year. Just getting the cleanup finished was the top issue both years, followed closely by long-term stewardship of contamination left in place on the Oak Ridge Reservation. The table below shows the top ten issues.

Issue	%
Cleanup of radioactive and chemical contamination	74
Long-term care (stewardship) of radioactive contamination left in place and waste put in radiological landfill at Y-12 (Environmental Management Waste Management Facility)	67
Contaminated groundwater and cleanup/reduction of radioactive and chemical contamination released off DOE property	58
Management of contamination at the East Tennessee Technology Park after DOE completes cleanup and transfers property to private entities	47
Economic development (non-DOE commercial and industrial) of the East Tennessee Technology Park (i.e., "brownsfield" site)	34
Hazardous waste and PCB incinerator currently operating at the East Tennessee Technology Park	29
Teaching area students about the Manhattan Project history and legacy contamination issues	28
Historic preservation of Manhattan Project artifacts (including a portion of the K-25 building)	26
Transportation of radioactive and chemical contamination on public roads	21
General community & citizen concerns about living near radioactive waste landfill/waste areas	18

The survey also provides space for individuals to write in comments. Some are very specific in nature:

"Past offsite exposures should be translated into an estimate of health risk with uncertainty and include the local and regional footprint of concomitant exposures to historic fallout from

atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons.”

Some comments are more general:

“Radiation cleanup and management of legacy wastes and waste sites is critically important to the future of our community and our children. Government needs to fulfill its responsibility and fund these activities better in the future.”

And some are just nice to receive:

“Would just like to say thank you to each board member for their service. It is good to know there is a group of people similar to me, who are looking out for my welfare.”

Comments on the DOE Oak Ridge Reservation cleanup can be made anytime on the board’s web site at [www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/comments.htm](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab/comments.htm).

The Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the DOE Information Center in Oak Ridge. Meetings of the board and its committees are open to the public, and notices are posted on the board’s web site: [www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/em/ssab).

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